

3 Charged in Racial Shooting

WASHINGTON—Three men were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of killing one black man and wounding two others during a drive through Lubbock, Texas, last October. The men were accused of luring blacks to their car and shooting them with a short-barreled shotgun.

The grand jury said the three defendants, a white supremacist and two Hispanic cousins, "discussed their mutual hatred of blacks and how they wanted to start a revolution or race war that would involve killing and eliminating blacks."

The indictments, returned in Lubbock under seal Tuesday, were announced Wednesday by the Justice Department here. The federal charges could carry a death penalty, but no decision has been made on whether to seek that sentence.

The grand jury said defendant Roy Ray Martin is a skinhead and member of the white supremacist "South Bay Nazi Youth." Also indicted were cousins Ricky Rivera Mungia and Eli Trevino Mungia, friends of Martin.

The nine-count indictment charges the three with violating federal criminal civil rights and gun laws. It alleges the three drove through Lubbock last Oct. 16 hunting black men and shooting them

with a short-barreled shotgun at close range from the car. The grand jury said the three passed the shotgun around and charged each man with one of the shootings, aided and abetted by the other two.

Martin was charged with shooting and wounding Autry Morgan Vaughn in the face and upper body. Eli Trevino Mungia was charged with shooting and killing Melvin DeWayne Johnson. And Ricky Rivera Mungia was charged with wounding Triellis Lee Stewart, who lost a finger as a result.

"This indictment shows that racially motivated killings are not a thing of the past," said Assistant Attorney General Deval L. Patrick, head of the civil rights division. The Justice Department opens about 450 hate-crime investigations a year.

"It is abhorrent to us that these victims were killed and terrorized solely because of the color of their skin," said Paul E. Coggins Jr., U.S. attorney in Dallas.

The defendants are charged with one count of conspiracy to violate the civil rights of the victims. Three counts allege the shootings deprived the victims of their right to use public streets and sidewalks. Five counts allege violations of gun laws.

The defendants have been



in state custody since their arrest one hour after the last shooting. They also face state murder charges that do not carry the death penalty, said Justice spokesman Myron Marlin.

Their federal trial will come before a state trial because it can start sooner, Marlin said. The federal prosecution will be handled jointly by the U.S. attorney's office, the civil rights division and the Lubbock County district attorney, who will be designated a special federal

prosecutor to assist in the case.

Last month, the Justice Department obtained guilty pleas from two white Missouri men who drove around St. Louis spraying more than 50 blacks with Kool-Aid from a high-pressure fire extinguisher that knocked some to the ground.

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News Briefs

Affirmative Action and Women

The Associated Press reports that prominent women activists accused President Clinton of a "divide and conquer" strategy to gut affirmative action as they launched a campaign to save preference programs.

Led by the Feminist Majority Foundation and the National Council of Negro Women, the groups announced a coalition to pursue strong commitments to equality.

The group is concerned that the current U.S. debate over affirmative action could embarrass the United States and undermine its position as a leader on women's equality. "Women in this nation and worldwide face an unprecedented backlash that seeks to rollback the advances of the last century and to prevent women from moving forward towards equality," said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation.

President Clinton has ordered a review of preference programs to evaluate how well they work. Smeal accused the Republican-led Congress of trying to shift attention from the national debt "by berating women and children."

Clinton Stresses Protecting Children in Welfare Debate

Associated Press reports that President Clinton in an address to the nation's county executives Tuesday said that the Republicans are backing reforms that are "too tough on children and too weak on work and responsibility." He criticized the GOP plan as not doing enough to help welfare recipients find work after being cut off from benefits. He also complained of not getting congressional backing to strengthen child support legislation. Leary of passing mandates to states, Republicans last week fought a Clinton plan to require states to revoke the drivers license of parents who fail to pay their support payments.

The president highlighted his administration's willingness to give states the freedom to experiment with welfare reform. On Tuesday, Ohio became the 25th state issued a regulation waiver under Clinton, and the president said he would like to abolish the waiver system and give states unlimited flexibility. Clinton's welfare reform plan introduced last year, proposed a two-year limit on cash benefits for welfare recipients, with expanded child care, training and education to promote the transition to work.

In related welfare reform news, acting Agriculture Secretary Richard Rominger, in a letter on Monday to Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, (R-KS), stated the threatened food stamp reductions would "jeopardize 30 years of health and nutrition accomplishments," and reduce retail and food sales by \$3B to \$7B over the next five years. Also on Monday, child advocates said as many as 377,000 children from low-income families could lose their subsidized care under the proposed welfare legislation.

Gingrich: Schools and Gays Don't Mix

The Associated Press reports House Speaker Newt Gingrich criticized school programs that portray homosexuality favorably. Gingrich said some school programs offered to counter discrimination by giving homosexuals a forum for promoting their way of life.

Gingrich said, "I don't think we want people out with 'Heather Has Two Mommies,' in first grade explaining that homosexuality is a reasonable alternative in lifestyle." The book, by Leslea Newman, was second on the American Library Association's 1994 list of books people tried to ban.

Gingrich has also rejected passing a federal law protecting homosexuals from on-the-job discrimination. He said that employers should not inquire about the sexual preference but if they do and fire the employee, there should be no recourse to the federal courts.

Eight states and the District of Columbia have such anti-discrimination laws: Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Hawaii, California and Vermont. New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, a rising star in the Republican Party, is among the supporters of a federal law.

GOP Medicare Plan Would Burden Seniors

Associated Press reports the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), said the elderly would pay more for Medicare if Congress implements their planned program savings. AARP said Monday that the changes would be three times larger than any Congress has ever imposed on the health insurance program, which now costs \$157 billion a year. Tricia Smith, a top AARP lobbyist, acknowledged Medicare would still grow by 8% a year, even if Congress trimmed \$150 billion over a five-year period.

Beau Bolter, a former GOP Congressman from Texas, and lobbyist for United Seniors Association, a conservative group, said Congress is trying to "protect Medicare. Something has got to be done or the program is going down the tubes, and senior health care with it."

AARP described how much more the elderly would pay if Congress enacts the planned changes:

-- The Medicare Part B premium would cover 30% of costs instead of 25% and cost \$67 a month by 2000. It is now \$46.10 but rises annually.

-- Part B premiums would be tripled for seniors with incomes above \$50,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for couples.

-- The \$100 Medicare Part B annual deductible of \$100 would be doubled and increased each year; seniors would pay \$275 by 2000.

-- Seniors would be charged 20% co-insurance for home health services they now get for nothing. The average person needing home health care would pay \$1,200 in 2000.

-- Simultaneous cuts in Medicaid could undermine a program that pays Medicare premiums and deductibles for seniors in poverty.

House Passes Food Stamp Reform

Reuters reports that reforms and cutbacks of more than \$16 million in the Food Stamp Program were approved early

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El Arresto de Salinas en el Contexto De un Ambiente de Libre Comercio

Por Carlos B. Gil

Un significado político más profundo yace detrás de las noticias políticas dramáticas más recientes que proceden de México. El hermano del ex-Presidente Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Raúl, ha sido arrestado en relación con el asesinato de José Francisco Ruiz Massieu, uno de los principales dirigentes del partido oficial PRI en la nación, ocurrido en los últimos meses del periodo de Salinas.

¿Qué significa este episodio para los negocios e individuos estadounidenses que mantienen inversiones en México? ¿Significa que el país está deshaciéndose políticamente y que pronto va a explotar como un polvorín?

El nuevo presidente de México, Ernesto Zedillo, ha quedado sujeto a críticas graves por parte de muchos analizadores políticos que lo perciben como desafortunado y contradictorio. Estos críticos han estado equivocados todo el tiempo. Desde el comienzo, Zedillo bosquejó un cimiento para su gobierno. Puede que haya sido manejado de modo insuficiente más de una vez, pero parece ser constante.

¿Qué es? Su insistencia sobre una nación de derecho, no de privilegio.

¿Qué significa esto? Quiere decir que los viejos intocables ya no son intocables, sea que pertenezcan al PRI o no. Ahora todos deben estar sujetos al "estado de derecho".

Esta frase ha llegado a ser constante. El joven presidente, instruido en Yale, hasta ahora un economista apolítico, ha estado usándola dondequiera que va. Ha empezado a sonar como un rosario político.

Cuando los abogados del gobierno se aproximaron a la puerta del ex-Presidente Carlos Salinas, armados con un montón de documentos que explicaban por qué el hermano del anterior jefe ejecutivo

estaba siendo arrestado, el emisario oficial estaba, en esencia, haciendo una declaración: Ni el presidente, ni el ex-presidente, ni cualquier otra persona, están por encima de la ley en México ahora.

Un hábito de muchos mexicanos influyentes, no demasiado escrupulosos, ha sido el de echar a un lado a la ley y hacer cualquier cosa con la que puedan salirse con la suya. La impunidad de los ricos y poderosos ha sido la regla hasta el día de hoy. Aunque eso no explica todos los males de México, sí ayuda a explicar una gran parte de los gastos excesivos del gobierno, las pujas arregladas para los contratos, la construcción pública (y privada) de mala clase, la tasa elevada de accidentes en la construcción y en el transporte, una fuerza de policía extremadamente corrompida, y así por el estilo.

Hay evidencia abundante que sí ayuda a explicar el asesinato de Luis Donald Colosio, candidato presidencial del PRI que fue reemplazado por Zedillo el año pasado. Y el sentimiento popular ha sido que, si los grandes pueden salirse con la suya hasta en un caso de asesinato, los que están en el fondo pueden igualmente tratar de hacerlo.

Es demasiado temprano aún para decir si Raúl Salinas de Gortari es el "autor intelectual" detrás del asesinato de José Francisco Ruiz Massieu. Puede que él sea inocente. Pero éste no es el asunto importante para los inversionistas estadounidenses preocupados acerca de México. La intriga política está presente en todas partes durante todo el tiempo.

Lo que sí es importante es que el Presidente Zedillo ha hecho un anuncio muy importante mediante su Procurador General: Si al hermano del ex-presidente se le considera sospechoso, entonces debe

llevarse para ser interrogado como a cualquier otra persona. El debe estar sometido a la ley. Tenemos que recordar que el ex-Presidente Carlos Salinas de Gortari, aunque manchado de alguna manera, continúa siendo un ex-presidente poderoso. Los riesgos políticos involucrados en arrestar a su hermano no son insignificantes.

Este es el contexto para comprender lo que significó la emisión de una orden de arresto para Raúl Salinas. En el México moderno autoritario, es algo insólito. El hermano de un presidente, o de un ex-presidente, no podía ser arrestado -- hasta ahora.

El clima político de México ha cambiado, en verdad. Puede que la mayoría de los

Welfare Mothers To Be Poorer, Have More Children

By Sue Kirchhoff

WASH. - Women who have children out of wedlock, begin having children early, are poor or are poorly educated are more likely than their counterparts to end up on welfare, a study released Thursday said.

In the first analysis of mothers between the ages of 15-44 who receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the main government cash welfare program, the Census Department found nearly half of AFDC recipients had never been married.

Fully 44 percent had never finished high school and almost 30 percent had their first child before the age of 18, compared to only 15 percent of non-AFDC mothers.

Women on welfare were also far more likely to be poor -- nearly three-quarters of mothers receiving AFDC lived in families with monthly incomes under \$1,000, compared to only 10 percent of non-AFDC mothers.

They also tended to have

mexicanos no lo crea en los días venideros.

¿Qué dice esto sobre el libre comercio y la política? En México, actualmente, el libre comercio sólo puede significar una política más abierta, más democrática. También significa trabajar más energicamente y producir artículos mejores y más baratos que puedan competir en el mercado abierto.

La reciente devaluación del peso ha asombrado a todo el mundo, por cierto. Pero si un "grande" como Raúl Salinas puede ser llevado para responder ante la ley, hay esperanza. El cimiento adecuado para un comercio libre y una sociedad justa y equitativa se está sentando.

more children than women who were not on welfare, 2.6 children on average compared to 2.1 for mothers not getting AFDC.

"The difference (in child bearing) is because of low education levels, no jobs, poverty," said Amara Bachu, an author of the study.

"High fertility is associated with low education ... the higher the education, the lower the number of children," she said.

The study came as House Republicans pressed ahead with the sweeping welfare reform plan in their Contract with America.

The legislation bars federal cash benefits to unwed mothers under age 18, limits welfare to five years, denies benefits to most legal immigrants and rolls a host of welfare programs into broad block grants to the states.

Republicans argue their tough approach will discourage young women from having children out of wedlock,

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The Cosmic Race Shifts to the North

By Ray Gonzales

The odds are that the new Republican Congress will pass some sort of Proposition 187 legislation aimed at immigrants of color, legal or illegal.

While the House leadership appears to have backed off the "Contract With America" plank of denying certain benefits even to legal immigrants, the attack on illegals will nonetheless affect legal U.S. citizen children of the undocumented in this country.

Added to this are the hysteria and broad-brush strokes that will generally affect anyone with a foreign accent and a darker complexion. But the xenophobic Prop. 187 fanatics have always been with us:

"They are an invasion of venomous reptiles... long-haired, wild-eyed, bad-smelling, atheistic, reckless foreign wretches... Crush such snakes before they have time to bite. They are a danger that threatens the destruction of our national edifice by erosion of its moral foundations."

These words were not uttered by supporters of California's Prop. 187 in the heat of the campaign to pass the 1990s' version of the Alien and Sedition Act or the National Origins Act. The words were, in fact, spoken by a preacher of Christian doctrine, the Reverend Josiah Strong, from his pulpit and in his writings ("Our Country") in 1885.

The attack then was not against Latinos, Southeast Asians or Haitians. Rather, it was against Italians, Irish, Jews, Poles -- Europeans who were streaming into the United States to become ultimately the backbone of our Industrial Revolution.

These immigrants were attacked in those times because of their Jewish or Catholic faiths, their foreign languages, their impoverished condition, and their willingness to do the jobs more established residents were not willing to do.

The Republican Party in the 19th century was already the "anti-immigrant" party. It was understandable, then, that the immigrant groups of that era overwhelmingly chose the Democratic Party when they became citizens and registered to vote.

While the Republican Party was the party of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the rich industrialists of the Northeast, the Democratic Party of Jacksonian populism took in the ragtag immigrants of Europe who fulfilled the Lady's call to, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free."

Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts epitomized the Republican animus toward the "mass of the unwashed" by passing the Immigrant Literacy Bill aimed at stopping the influx of those "twisted, unassimilable, filthy, un-American immigrants."

Ironically, in the 1894 congressional elections, Republicans also won an overwhelmingly victory. Buoyed by it, the nativists continued their immigrant bashing which culminated in Lodge's legislation. Fortunately, it was vetoed by Democratic President Grover Cleveland.

Exactly 100 years later, Republicans won another overwhelming victory in the congressional elections, and guess what? The nativists have reappeared. Anti-immigration legislation is being drafted in the nation's capital and in many state legislatures. In California, the extremist proposition capital of the country, Prop. 187 set the stage for this frenzy.

On the eve of the 21st century, however, even with the Republicans operatives in control of Washington and a majority of state houses, no amount of politics, nor rhetoric, nor

doomsdayism will be able to stem the impact of immigration nor maintain what the early nativists called the "racial purity of the predominantly Anglo-Saxon American nation."

In the past, this "American nation" had accepted such philosophical, political policies as Manifest Destiny, Social Darwinism and the White Man's Burden which nearly caused the extermination of the native Indian population and resulted in the illegal deportation of millions of legal residents and citizens among the Chinese, Filipinos, Italians and Mexicans in this country.

In 1925, the Mexican philosopher and educator José Vasconcelos published his essay on futuristic demographics "La Raza Cosmica" ("The Cosmic Race"). Vasconcelos' work was controversial from the start, because it challenged the European Social Darwinism that had motivated Mexican intellectuals to reject the Indian portions of their own heritage.

Things white and things European were valued by the Mexican intelligentsia to the point of making Louis XIV furniture and French cuisine the standard in the homes of elites.

The politicians of the wealthy class had gone so far as to pressure the French government to sign a treaty with Mexico over some disputed islands, in which the French government officially recognized Mexico as a "Caucasian Nation." The treaty, of course, relegated the 80 percent of the population which was either Mestizo (mixed blood) or Indian to the status of non-Mexican.

Radically, Vasconcelos postulated in his essay that a new race would be born in the Americas which would combine all of the best qualities of the black, white, red and yellow races. He concluded that this fifth race would emerge in the Amazon Valley of South America where African blacks, Amazon Indians and white Spaniards, French, British and Portuguese were already mixing their racial lines.

"We will reach in America, before any other part of the globe, the creation of a race created with the treasures of all the previous races, the final, universal race, the cosmic race," he wrote.

Vasconcelos' conclusions were based as much on philosophical wishful thinking as they were on sound anthropological facts, but one thing was true: the mixtures of bloods and cultures in the Americas was far surpassing anything the European continent had ever experienced, except, perhaps, for the melding of Arab, Visigoth, Iberian, Jewish and Roman bloods that occurred in Medieval Spain.

What Vasconcelos predicted for the Amazon Valley may become a reality in another century in that location. But what he anticipated, the emergence of a new race, a cosmic race, while not occurring in the Amazon Valley, is in fact occurring in the United States today.

This is perhaps what frightens the fans of Prop. 187 and the English-only crowd, and those descendants of 19th century nativists who believed in maintaining the purity of "the single Anglo-Saxon stock."

Their fear culminated in the 1920s when Republican President Calvin Coolidge signed the National Origins Act, declaring that "America must be kept for Americans."

Vasconcelos' theme was revisited in a 1993 special edition of Time magazine, devoted entirely to the "browning of America" or "The New Face of America: How Immigrants Are Shaping the World's First Multi-Cultural Society."

In that issue, Time presented significant evolving demo-

graphic facts affecting the population of the United States. It cited the notion that "intermarriage is as old as the Bible. But during the past two decades, America has produced the greatest variety of hybrid households in the history of the world."

The incidence of births to mixed-race couples has increased 26 times as fast as that of any other group, according to Time. Japanese Americans, for example, marry non-Japanese 65 percent of the time. Among Native Americans, the figure is 70 percent. Jews marry outside of their faith, or cultural group, 52 percent of the time. Of individuals contacted in a national poll by Time, 72 percent indicated they were acquainted with interracial couples.

Other indicators also note the impact of recent immigration on the changing face of the country. In New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Fair-

fax County, Virginia, more than 100 languages are spoken in the public schools.

By the year 2040, California, presently 55 percent white, will only be 32 percent white, or even less, if one factors in the incidents of interracial marriages. In cities as distinct and as geographically separated as Miami, Florida, Union City, New Jersey and Santa Ana, California, more than half of the population is foreign-born.

Time cited the case of 29-year-old Cindy Mills, the daughter of black and Native American parents, married to a white European immigrant, who believes her two Native American, black-white-Hungarian-French-Catholic-Jewish-American children may lead the way to an unhyphenated, whole U.S. society.

This new American "whole" is what José Vasconcelos was envisioning in his essay on the Cosmic Race. He, of course, uses America to

refer only to the United States. Nevertheless, as hard as legislators may try, as high as emotions may run, and as unlikely as it may seem in Davenport, Iowa, or Little Rock, Arkansas, the Cosmic Race is being born in the United States.

The Jewish delicatessen in Brooklyn has become an Arab sub shop, and the Portuguese crab stand on Fisherman's Wharf has become a Vietnamese establishment, and all across the land, the migrant worker stream has dropped off Gonzálezes, Martínezes and Garcíaes in Chicago, Portland, Saginaw and St Paul.

And for more than 200 years, from the days of slavery, the black and white races have been mixing. Today, 84 percent of all the school children in Los Angeles, the second-largest school district in the country, are non-white.

In the largest, New York

City, 85 percent are "minorities," or more correctly, now the majorities. These children will grow up in a more racially tolerant, less legalistically xenophobic society than their parents or grandparents did, despite the politicians, the fearful nativists, and any efforts to self-segregate.

The challenge will be to maintain those "beautiful treasures" of each race that Vasconcelos wrote about, thus maintaining diversity while living harmoniously together. Hopefully, the children of the 21st century will be free to follow their hearts and become the proud parents of that Cosmic Race. It will happen; no set of laws can stop it now.

(Dr. Ray Gonzales, whose career has encompassed overseas responsibilities with the U.S. State Department, a term in the California legislature, and several years teaching at the university level, is a staff official with the Peace Corps. The views expressed in this column are personal.)

La Raza Cosmica Surge en el Norte

Por Ray Gonzales

Las probabilidades son de que el nuevo Congreso republicano apruebe alguna clase de legislación semejante a la Proposición 187 dirigida a los inmigrantes de color, legales o ilegales. Aunque la dirigencia de la Cámara de Representantes parece haberse retraído del punto del programa "Contrato con los Estados Unidos" que niega ciertos beneficios hasta a los inmigrantes legales, el ataque contra los ilegales afectará, no obstante, a los niños legales, ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, hijos de los indocumentados de este país.

Agréguese a esto la histeria y las generalizaciones que afectarán a cualquiera que tenga acento extranjero y una complejidad más oscura. Pero los fanáticos anti-extranjeros de la Proposición 187 han estado siempre con nosotros:

"Son una invasión de reptiles venenosos... de cabello largo, ojos extraviados, mal olientes, ateos, desperdicios extranjeros sin escrúpulos... Aplasten a las serpientes antes de que tengan tiempo de morder. Son un peligro que amenaza con destruir a nuestro edificio nacional por el desgaste de sus cimientos morales"

Estas palabras no fueron proferidas por los partidarios de la Proposición 187 de California en el calor de la campaña para aprobar la versión del decenio de 1990 de la Ley de Extranjeros y Sedición, o de la Ley de Orígenes Nacionales. Las palabras fueron, en verdad, pronunciadas por un predicador de la doctrina cristiana, el Reverendo Josiah Strong, desde su púlpito y en sus escritos (Nuestro País), en 1885.

El ataque no era entonces contra los latinos, los asiáticos del sureste ni los haitianos. Antes bien, era contra los italianos, irlandeses, judíos y polacos -- europeos que estaban ingresando a los Estados Unidos para convertirse en último término en la espina dorsal de nuestra Revolución Industrial.

Estos inmigrantes fueron atacados en aquella época debido a sus creencias judías o católicas, sus idiomas extranjeros, su situación empobrecida, y su disposición para hacer los trabajos que los residentes más acomodados no estaban dispuestos a hacer.

El Partido Republicano ya era en el siglo XIX el partido "anti-inmigrante". Era comprensible, entonces, que los grupos inmigrantes de aquella época escogieran abrumadoramente al Partido Demócrata cuando llegaron a ser ciudadanos y se inscribieron para votar.

Mientras que el Partido Republicano era el partido de las Hijas de la Revolución Estadounidense y de los industriales ricos del nordeste, el Partido Demócrata del populismo de Jackson aceptó a los inmigrantes desarraigados de Europa, que cumplieron el llamado de la Estatua de la Libertad: "Dadme a vuestros cansados, vuestros pobres, vuestras masas confusas que ansían respirar libremente."

El Senador Henry Cabot Lodge, de Massachusetts, resumió el ánimo de los republicanos hacia las "masas de los sucios", al aprobarse la Ley de Alfabetización de los Inmigrantes, dirigida a detener el influjo de los "inmigrantes anti-estadounidenses retorcidos, inasimilables, sucios".

Irónicamente, en las elecciones congresionales de 1894, los republicanos ganaron también una victoria abrumadora. Impulsados por ella, los nacionalistas continuaron su ataque contra los inmigrantes, que culminó en la legislación de Cabot Lodge. Afortunadamente, el proyecto de ley fue vetado por el Presidente Grover Cleveland, que era demócrata.

Exactamente 100 años después, los republicanos ganaron otra victoria abrumadora en las elecciones congresionales, y ¿adivinen qué? Los nacionalistas han vuelto a aparecer. Se está redactando proyectos de legislación contra la inmigración en la capital de la nación y en muchas legislaturas estatales. En California, "la capital de la proposición extremista" del país, la Proposición 187 preparó el escenario para este frenesí.

En vísperas del siglo XXI, sin embargo, aún con los operadores republicanos al control de Washington y de una mayoría de los capitolios estatales, ninguna cantidad de política, ni de retórica, ni de predicciones apocalípticas será capaz de eliminar el efecto de la inmigración ni de mantener lo que los nacionalistas tempranos llamaban la "pureza racial de la nación estadounidense, predominantemente anglo-sajona".

Anteriormente, esta "nación estadounidense" había aceptado cursos de acción filosóficos y políticos tales como el Destino Manifesto, el Darwinismo Social y la Carga del Hombre Blanco, que casi ocasionaron la exterminación de la población indígena nativa y dieron por resultado las deportaciones ilegales de millones de residentes legales y ciudadanos entre los chinos, filipinos, italianos y mexicanos de este país.

En 1925, el filósofo y educador mexicano José Vasconcelos

publicó su ensayo sobre las estadísticas demográficas del futuro, titulado La Raza Cósmica. La obra de Vasconcelos fué controvertida desde el principio, porque retaba al Darwinismo Social Europeo que había motivado a los intelectuales mexicanos a rechazar a las porciones indígenas de su propia herencia. Las cosas blancas y europeas eran valoradas por la inteligencia mexicana hasta el punto de hacer que los muebles al estilo de Luis XIV y la cocina francesa fueran las normas en las casas de los grupos selectos.

Los políticos de la clase rica habían ido tan lejos como hasta apremiar al gobierno francés para que firmara un tratado con México sobre algunas islas disputadas, en el cual el gobierno francés reconocía a México como una "nación caucásica". El tratado, por supuesto, relegaba al 80% de la población, que era o bien mestiza o indígena, a la condición de no mexicanos.

Vasconcelos postuló radicalmente en su ensayo que una nueva raza podría nacer en las Américas, que combinaría a todas las mejores cualidades de las razas negra, blanca, roja y amarilla. El llegó a la conclusión de que esta quinta raza surgiría en el Valle del Amazonas de la América del Sur, donde los negros africanos, los indígenas del Amazonas y los españoles, franceses, ingleses y portugueses blancos ya estaban mezclando sus líneas raciales.

"Llegaremos en las Américas, antes que en cualquier otra parte del mundo, a la creación de a raza cósmica", escribió él.

Las conclusiones de Vasconcelos se basaban tanto sobre los sueños filosóficos imaginativos como lo estaban sobre los hechos antropológicos sólidos, pero una cosa era cierta: La mezcla de sangres y culturas en las Américas sobrepasaba con mucho a cualquier cosa que el continente europeo hubiera experimentado alguna vez, quizás si con la excepción de la mezcla de sangres árabe, visigoda, ibérica, judía y romana que ocurrió en la España de la Edad Media.

Lo que Vasconcelos pronosticó para el Valle del Amazonas puede convertirse en realidad en otro siglo en aquella ubicación. Pero lo que él anticipó, el surgimiento de una nueva raza, una raza cósmica, aunque no esté sucediendo en el Valle del Amazonas, en verdad está ocurriendo en los Estados Unidos actualmente.

Esto es quizás lo que atemoriza a los fanáticos de la Proposición 187 y al grupo de habla inglesa, y a los descendientes de los nacionalistas del siglo XIX que creían en mantener la pureza de "la raza anglo-sajona singular".

Su temor culminó en el decenio de 1920, cuando el Presidente Calvin Coolidge, republicano, promulgó la Ley de Orígenes Nacionales, la cual declaraba que "los Estados Unidos deben conservarse para los estadounidenses".

El tema de Vasconcelos fué vuelto a traer a colación en una edición especial de la revista Time en 1993, dedicada completamente al "oscurecimiento de los Estados Unidos", o "La Nueva Cara de los Estados Unidos: Cómo los Inmigrantes están Dando Forma a la Primera Sociedad Multi-Cultural del Mundo". En aquella edición, Time presentaba cifras demográficas de la evolución considerable que afectaba a la población de los Estados Unidos. Mencionaba la noción de que "los matrimonios mixtos son tan antiguos como la Biblia. Pero durante los dos decenios últimos, los Estados Unidos han producido la variedad mayor de familias híbridas en la historia del mundo".

La incidencia de los nacimientos en las parejas de razas mezcladas ha aumentado 26 veces tan rápidamente como la de cualquier otro grupo, según Time. Los japoneses-americanos, por ejemplo, se casan con personas que no son japonesas el 65% de las veces. Entre los norteamericanos nativos, la cifra es de 70%. Los judíos se casan fuera de sus creencias o grupos culturales en un 52% de las veces. De las personas entrevistadas por una encuesta nacional de Time, el 72% indicó que estaban familiarizadas con parejas interraciales.

Otros indicadores hacen notar igualmente el efecto de la inmigración reciente sobre la cara del país que cambia. En Nueva York, Los Angeles, Chicago y el Condado de Fairfax, en Virginia, se hablan más de 100 idiomas en las escuelas públicas. Para el año 2,040, California, que es actualmente blanca en un 55%, lo será únicamente en un 32% o quizás menos, si se toman en cuenta las incidencias de matrimonios inter-raciales. En ciudades tan distintas y tan separadas geográficamente como Miami, Florida, Union City, Nueva Jersey, y Santa Ana, California, más de la mitad de sus poblaciones son nacidas en el extranjero.

Time citó el caso de Cindy Mills, de 29 años de edad, hija de padres negro e indígena norteamericano, casada con un inmigrante europeo blanco, quien cree que sus dos hijos norteamericanos nativos-negros-blancos-húngaros-franceses-católicos-judíos estadounidenses pueden estar a la cabeza de una sociedad estadounidense completa "sin guiones".

Continúa Pagina 3

News Briefs

Wednesday by the House Agriculture Committee.

The legislation places strict work requirements on food stamp recipients, caps annual increases in food stamp benefits at 2%, increases penalties for food stamp fraud, and gives states the option to operate simplified programs.

Democratic lawmakers and the administration strongly opposed the bill, saying it would unravel the nutritional safety net for millions of poor Americans. The food stamp program helped feed 27.5 million people last year, including more than 14 million children, at a cost of around \$24 billion.

Agriculture Department economists said that under the reform plan, by the year 1999, food stamp benefits will not provide enough to cover 100% of the costs of the "Thrifty Food Plan" -- the Agriculture Department estimate of what it costs to buy a healthy diet.

The bill faces an uncertain future in the Senate.

Immigration Reform to Center Stage

Gannett News Service reports as immigration reform moves toward Congress' center stage, a corps of lawmakers who have been toiling in obscurity is suddenly in the spotlight. Many are Republicans who called for radical change of immigration policies while they were in Congress' minority.

Led by Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., Congress' acknowledged GOP dean of immigration law, who became Senate immigration subcommittee chairman for the second time in January, Republicans plan this year to make dramatic moves to stop illegal immigration, increase enforcement of worker sanctions and possibly place limits on legal immigration.

Congress' Democratic experts on the issue agree that the result will be some of the most comprehensive changes in immigration law since the watershed 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act, which Simpson steered through Congress the last time Republicans held a Senate majority.

"We are almost certainly going to pass something by the end of this year, and it will probably be a bipartisan effort," says Rep. Howard Berman, D-Calif., who worked with Simpson to pass it. "They have control of the agenda, and we'll see how far they go."

Congress also is being pushed toward immigration reform by outside forces, including the overwhelming vote by Californians for Proposition 187, which bars illegal immigrants from all public services except emergency medical care. The ballot measure is on hold pending court action.

Immigrant support groups are watching the new chairmen warily, and believe they can limit new restrictions by appealing to other lawmakers outside border states. Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who are over Smith and Simpson as Judiciary chairmen, are much more skeptical of new limits on immigration, says Angela Kelley, director of policy for the National Immigration Forum.

Local Governments Skeptical on Block Grants

The Associated Press reports many city and county officials fear they will have to cut services or raise taxes if the federal money they now get is turned over to the states. Donald Singer, a county jobs training official in Stark County, Ohio, said "Handing over federal programs to states as block grants won't be much help if cities and counties have to get their monies from a new political crowd every four years. Where we had the stability of federal bureaucracy, we would have the instability of state governments."

Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt said that Governors and state legislators are planning a conference to discuss the "permanent, fundamental reform and restructuring" of their relationship with federal government.

Local officials are concerned at not being invited to participate in the conference. The National Association of Counties and the U.S. Conference of Mayors said they would convene their own meeting, to "examine the balance of power" that the governors might create. Salt Lake City Mayor Dee-dee Corradini said she is concerned that states would burden localities with even more regulations in order to obtain federal money.

Ohio Gov. George V. Voinovich said, "I think I can speak for every governor when I say that the devolution of power back to the states is perhaps our last chance to bring common sense back to governing."

Local officials are doubtful. Jean McDonald, commission chairwoman in Ingham County, Mich. said, "I'm in favor of local control. I've just never seen it trickle down to the local level. They skim off the top. We don't get the money."

Millions for 3rd World Poor Women

Reuters reports that the United States announced a \$100 million contribution to help educate poor women in the third world.

First Lady Hillary Clinton announced the 10-year aid program at the United Nations social summit in Denmark saying, "In countries where governments have invested in primary and secondary schooling for girls and women, the investment has been repaid many times through higher economic productivity, greater participation of women in the modern labor sector . . . and stronger families and communities."

The Associated Press reports that the first year of the program will cost about \$11.7 million.

The program was announced as the U.S. Congress is considering drastic cuts in benefits at home. U.S. Under Secretary for Global Affairs Timothy Wirth said that the Republican campaign to cut back on welfare was making many Americans anxious. "The gap between rich and poor is very dangerous . . . Americans are deeply worried about their own economic futures."

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The Arrest of Salinas in the Context of the Free Trade Environment

By Carlos B. Gil

A deeper political meaning lies behind the most recent dramatic political news coming out of Mexico. The brother of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Raúl, has been arrested in connection with the assassination, in the last months of Salinas' term, of Jose' Francisco Ruiz Massieu, one of the nation's top official party (PRI) leaders.

What does this episode mean to U.S. businesses and individuals who maintain investments in Mexico? Does it mean that the country is unraveling politically, soon to blow up like a tinder box?

Mexico's new president, Ernesto Zedillo, has come under severe criticism from many political analysts who perceive him as hapless and contradictory. These critics have been wrong all along. From the start, Zedillo sketched out a foundation for his administration. It may have been handled in an understated fashion more than once, but it appears consistent. What is it? His insistence on a nation of law, not privilege.

What does this mean? It means that the old untouchables are no longer untouchable, whether they belong to the PRI or not. Everyone must now be submitted to "the state of law" or "el estado de derecho." This phrase has become constant. The young Yale-trained president, hitherto an apolitical economist, has been using it everywhere he goes. It's begun to sound like a political rosary.

When government lawyers approached former President Carlos Salinas' door armed with a pile of documents explaining why the former chief executive's brother was being arrested, the official emissary was in essence making a statement: neither the president, nor the former presi-

Welfare mothers From Page 1

but Democrats charge the legislation will hurt poor children.

During House Ways and Means committee debate on the bill Thursday, Republicans defeated Democratic amendments to restore funding for adoption, foster care and child protection services and to offer more services to legal immigrants.

The Congressional Budget Office also released preliminary estimates showing the Ways and Means measure would reduce federal welfare spending by about \$35 billion over five years, including deep cuts in the Supplemental Security Income program for poor, disabled children.

According to the department, there were 36 million U.S. mothers aged 15-44 in the summer of 1993. Of that total 3.8 million, or 10 percent, were receiving AFDC.

Only 13 percent of welfare mothers were married with husbands present. Almost 50 percent never married, 23 percent were widowed or divorced and 17 percent had an absent spouse.

More white mothers, 2.1 million, than African-American mothers, 1.5 million, received AFDC benefits.

But the percentage of all white mothers receiving welfare was seven percent, while a quarter of African-American mothers received aid. Almost one in five Hispanic mothers received AFDC.

Nearly 90 percent of welfare mothers were jobless. But Bachu said Census Bureau figures showing 14 percent of welfare mothers were attending school contradicted the common perception that welfare mothers were loafers on the dole.

"(People) assume AFDC mothers are lazy and don't want to work . . . these women are trying hard through schooling to get out of the welfare system," Bachu said.



dent, nor anyone else, is outside the law in Mexico now.

A habit of many influential, not too scrupulous, Mexicans has been to set the law aside and do whatever they can get away with. The impunity of the rich and powerful has been the rule to this day. Although it does not account for all of Mexico's ills, it helps explain a large portion of government overspending, rigged contract bids, shoddy public and private construction, high accident rates in construction and in transportation, an extremely corrupt police force, and so on.

There is plenty of evidence that helps explain the assassination of Luis Donaldo Colosio, PRI's presidential candidate, who was replaced by Zedillo last year. And the popular feeling has been that if the big guys can get away with murder (figuratively or literally), those down at the bottom can certainly try, too.

It is too early to tell whether Raúl Salinas de Gortari is "the intellectual brain" behind the assassination of José Francisco Ruiz Massieu. He may be innocent. But this is not the important issue for U.S. investors concerned about Mexico. Political intrigue is present everywhere, all the time.

What is important is that President Zedillo has made a very important announcement through his attorney general: if the past president's brother is considered a suspect, then he should be brought in for questioning like anybody else. He should be submitted to the law. We have to remember that former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, though somewhat tarnished, remains a powerful

ex-president.

The political risks involved in arresting his brother are not insignificant. This is the context necessary to understand what issuing a warrant for Raúl Salinas' arrest meant. In modern authoritarian Mexico, it is unheard of.

The brother of a president or ex-president could not be arrested -- until now. The political climate in Mexico has indeed changed. Most Mexicans themselves may not believe it for days to come.

What does this say about free trade and politics? In Mexico today, free trade can only mean more open, more demo-

cratic politics. It also means working harder and producing better and cheaper goods that can compete in the open market. The recent peso devaluation has staggered everybody, to be sure. But if a bigwig like Raúl Salinas can be brought to answer to the law, there is hope.

The appropriate foundation for free trade and a fair and equal society is being laid. (Dr. Carlos B. Gil, Latin American Studies professor and president of Gil-Deane Group consultants in Mexico City, is author of "Hope and Frustration: Interviews with Mexico's Political Opposition Leaders" - 1992.)

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Este nuevo "todo" estadounidense es lo que José Vasconcelos estaba vislumbrando en su ensayo sobre la Raza Cósmica. El, por supuesto, usa el término "América" para hablar del Hemisferio Occidental, mientras que nosotros, erróneamente, nos referimos sólo a los Estados Unidos. No obstante, y sin importar cuán enérgicamente traten los legisladores, cuán altas puedan correr las emociones, y cuán improbable pueda parecer en Davenport, Iowa o Little Rock, Arkansas, la Raza Cósmica está naciendo en los Estados Unidos.

El "delicatessen" judío de Brooklyn se ha convertido en una tienda de "submarinos" árabe, y el kiosko portugués del Muelle de los Pescadores se ha convertido en un establecimiento vietnamés, y por todo el país, la corriente de trabajadores migrantes ha dejado a su paso a los González, Martínez y García en Chicago, Portland, Saginaw y St. Paul. Y durante más de 200 años, desde los días de la esclavitud, las razas negra y blanca han estado mezclándose.

Hoy, el 84% de todos los escolares de Los Angeles, el distrito escolar segundo por su importancia en el país, está formado por no blancos. En el mayor, la ciudad de Nueva York, el 85% son "minoritarios", o más correctamente, ahora son la mayoría. Estos niños crecerán en una sociedad más tolerante racialmente, menos legalísticamente anti-extranjera que sus padres y abuelos, a pesar de los políticos, los nacionalistas asustados y de cualesquiera gestiones para la auto-segregación.

El reto será mantener esos "bellos tesoros" de cada raza de que escribió Vasconcelos, manteniendo así la diversidad mientras viven juntas armoniosamente. Es de esperar que los niños del siglo XXI estarán libres para seguir los impulsos de sus corazones y llegar a ser los padres y las madres orgullosos de esa Raza Cósmica. Sucederá; ningún conjunto de leyes lo puede parar ahora.

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Sueños, sudor y rock, 27 años de Alejandra Guzmán y Viña del Mar

México (Notimex) - Con 27 años de edad, una película, seis álbumes grabados, seis discos de oro y varios más de doble y triple platino, Alejandra Guzmán, la "reina del rock" actuó en el Festival Internacional de Viña del Mar, Chile, donde festejó su cumpleaños y mostró el resultado de siete años de sueños, sudor y rock.

Controvertida, liberal, ardiente y dicharachera, pero sobre todo rockera, Alejandra Guzmán Pinal, heredera de dos leyendas de la farándula mexicana, nació un 9 de febrero de 1968, destinada por los astros para la música y el espectáculo, pues debutó a los dos meses de edad en el programa televisivo de sus padres "Silvia y

Enrique". Después de estudiar jazz, tap y ballet desde los cinco años de edad, de hacer coros para "Kenny y Los Eléctricos", actuar en el programa "Mujer, Casos de la Vida Real" y en la obra de teatro "Mame", Alejandra se lanzó por fin al ruedo de la música a los 20 años de edad con el disco "Bye Mamá".

Apoyada o... presionada por el peso de los apellidos, Alejandra ha sudado, y mucho, para lograr sus sueños, para ser independiente de la familia y para formarse un estilo propio dentro del rock en español. Lo que le ha permitido dejar a un lado la crítica de que sería sólo una "estrellita fugaz" en el

enorme firmamento musical. Después de "Bye Mamá", disco que le permitió ser nombrada la "Revelación del Año"



Alejandra Guzmán ha logrado que varias de sus canciones sean consideradas "clásicas".

en 1989, Alejandra grabó "Dame Tu Amor", que la ayudó a dar continuidad a su carrera, mas no grandes éxitos, para retomar el camino del triunfo con "Eternamente Bella", en 1990.

Dueña de una imagen sensual, fuerte y agresiva, Alejandra comenzó con la década su desarrollo hacia el extranjero para presentarse por primera vez en Estados Unidos, Centro y Sudamérica, donde empezaron a gustar de su voz ronca, sus bailes y saltos, y de la hiperactividad que contagia a su público.

Desinhibida, para hablar y vestir, pues gusta de las microfaldas, los escotes, las transparencias y las aberturas hasta donde... la censura lo permita, Alejandra ya no paró en su loca carrera por el rock, pues en 1991 presentó su cuarto disco titulado "Flor de Papel", canción en la que recuerda a su hermana Viridiana.

Así, lo único que la frenó y mantuvo parada durante unos meses fue la maternidad. En marzo de 1992 nació Frida Sofía, otra elegida de la vida y ahijada de "La Doña", María Félix. Por lo que, después de

dos años de ausencia Alejandra regresó por sus fueros con "Libre" en 1993, para remarcar su filosofía, la libertad ante todo.

Con "Libre" la Guzmán no sólo reconquistó su lugar en México, sino que incursionó también con sus discos en Estados Unidos, Argentina,

Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Perú, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia y España.

Repuesta de la pelea por recuperar el terreno perdido frente a la del "pelo suelto", Alejandra Guzmán se enfloó hacia su sexta producción musical con el título "Enorme", que presentó en 1994.

Diva del rock, cantante de moda o ídolo de las jovencitas que antes de ella no se atrevían a pensar siquiera en "Hacer el amor con otro", en ser "Libre" o en la "Mala hierba", Alejandra ha logrado en siete años de trabajo que varias de sus canciones ya sean consideradas "clásicas" del rock mexicano.

El Fantasma Detrás de Nicholas Leeson

Por Cecilio Morales

En algún lugar de allá arriba, mi abuelo materno está mirando hacia abajo bondadosamente sobre el bribón tratante de acciones Nicholas Leeson, que acaba de enviar a la bancarrota al Banco Barings de Londres.

Leeson apostó más de \$1,000 millones de las propiedades del banco en una jugada errática con derivados sobre el mercado de valores de Singapur; más de 100 años atrás, otra crisis en Barings hizo que mi abuelo fuera a la cárcel.

Abandonado al derrumbe por su cuenta, por el bien de la comunidad financiera mundial, Barings es uno de los bancos comerciales más antiguos de Londres. Fundado en 1763 por la familia Baring para financiar el comercio con India, llegó a estar vinculado cada vez en mayor medida con el poder británico durante las Guerras Napoleónicas.

En el decenio de 1880, cuando mi abuelo era un joven en la Argentina, Barings era también el principal banquero de la Argentina, encabezando a sindicatos que involucraban a casas de banca tan augustas como los Rothschild en el financiamiento de ferrocarriles y otras obras públicas. El socio principal de Barings, Lord Revelstoke, presuntamente llegó a estar tan entusiasmado por prestarle dinero a la Argentina como para haber sobornado al Presidente Miguel Juárez Celman y al Ministro Eduardo Wilde con la enorme suma de 180,000 libras esterlinas -- aproximadamente \$11.6 millones en dólares actuales -- para cimentar la relación.

Los rumores del soborno corrieron como incendio sin control en la Argentina, a medida que el gobierno dejó de hacer honor al préstamo al acueducto de Buenos Aires, propiedad del estado. Estalló el caos financiero en la Argentina así como en Europa, y la única revolución dirigida por el pueblo en el país en los 105 años últimos hizo erupción a mediados del decenio de 1890.

Aquí es donde entra mi abuelo. José Maximiano Sarlo Sabajanes era entonces un soltero joven, poeta de tiempo parcial y administrador de tiempo parcial de una tienda general que pertenecía a su familia en el pueblito de Juárez, provincia de Buenos Aires, a un buen día de camino de la capital. Pepe, como le conocían todos sus familiares, era también el presidente del comité local del Partido de la Unión Radical Civil, que se oponía virulentamente a los "situacionistas" (los defensores de la situación del gobierno), y por ende al Presidente Juárez, cuyo apellido acertaba a coincidir con el nombre del pueblo de mi abuelo.

La crisis se desarrolló comenzando en 1889 y el grupo de partidarios de Pepe se movilizó para unirse a las filas de los estudiantes, dependientes y profesionales jóvenes que

llegaron a marchar en combate abierto con el ejército en un parque de Buenos Aires.

Tales estallidos se desarrollaron lentamente, especialmente en un pueblito. El primer incidente del que hay rastro hoy, informado por el periódico local en la vecina Tandil en Enero 6 de 1890, dice de un tal Sargento Castro que, con el revólver en la mano, se aproximó a mi abuelo en un salón local, tratando de cortar la rebelión local en ciernes. El disparo que siguió, y que podría haber evitado que yo estuviera contando el relato, falló el blanco gracias a la acción rápida de uno de los amigos de Pepe, que se lanzó contra el brazo del policía.

Una vez que la crisis llegó a estar en desarrollo completo, se convirtió en la Revolución del Parque. Faltos de adiestramiento, indisciplinados, con poco más que armas de cacería para respaldar a la indignación recalentada por la "traición" de la nación a favor del poder colonialista como Inglaterra, hubo muchos que, como José más tarde, relataron "historias de guerra" interminables de lo que fue realmente una comedia de errores.

En uno de los relatos, Pepe sintió algo en su bota. "Me han matado, mi capitán", gritó. Resultó ser una piedrecita que había rebotado de un proyectil cercano.

Meses después, una vez que el gobierno recobró el control, empezó la represión. Fue ferroz para la época. Como lo dice un recorte descolorido de Noviembre 29 de 1890, Pepe fue arrestado al descubrir la policía que él guardaba "una cantidad considerable de instrumentos de muerte que los Cívicos estaban almacenando con intención plena de vencer a los Situacionistas de que debían convertirse en creyentes del credo Cívico, o morir".

El encarcelamiento duró poco más de unas cuantas semanas, después que los periódicos más favorables a la causa de mi abuelo protestaron, como lo hizo uno, de "la fuerza bárbara impuesta a ciudadanos tan valerosos".

En Londres, el Banco de Inglaterra convocó a una reunión de directores y dirigentes de los bancos aliados; con semblantes austeros, ellos aceptaron que el derrumbe de Barings debido a sus aventuras financieras sencillamente no serviría. Un conjunto financiero de rescate reorganizó al banco en 1892. Barings continuó siendo el prestamista principal de la Argentina hasta que, en un arranque de nacionalismo, el Presidente Juan Perón puso fin a la relación en 1946.

Para entonces, mi abuelo Pepe había estado muerto durante seis años. Me imagino, sin embargo, que dondequiera que esté, Pepe debe estar sonriendo por la defunción de Barings a manos de otro "turco joven". Si Pepe conoce ese dicho, de seguro está pensando que lo que da vuelta llega a cerrar el círculo.

Ghost Behind Nicholas Leeson

By Cecilio Morales

Somewhere up there, my maternal grandfather is looking down kindly upon rogue stock trader Nicholas Leeson, who just sent the Barings bank of London into bankruptcy.

Leeson bet more than \$1 billion of the bank's assets on a wild derivatives gamble on the Singapore securities market; more than 100 years ago, another Barings crisis landed my grandfather in jail.

Left to collapse on its own for the good of the world financial community, Barings is one of the oldest London merchant banks. Founded in 1763 by the Baring family to finance trade with India, it became increasingly tied up with British power during the Napoleonic Wars.

Back in the 1880s, when my grandfather was a young man in Argentina, Barings was also the principal banker to Argentina, leading syndicates involving banking houses as august as the Rothschilds in the financing of railroads and other public works.

Barings' leading partner, Lord Revelstoke, allegedly became so bullish on lending to Argentina that he bribed President Miguel Juárez Celman and Minister Eduardo Wilde with the huge sum of 180,000 pounds sterling -- roughly \$11.6 million in today's dollars -- to secure the relationship.

Rumors of the bribe ran like wildfire in Argentina just as the government failed to make good on the loan to the state-owned waterworks of Buenos Aires. Financial chaos broke out in Argentina as well as Europe, and the country's only popularly-led revolution in the past 105 years broke out in mid-1890.

Enter my grandfather. José Maximiano Sarlo Sabajanes was then a young bachelor, part-time poet, part-time manager of a general store that belonged to his family in the small town of Juárez, province of Buenos Aires, a good day's travel from the capital.

Pepe, as all his relatives knew him, was also the president of the local Radical Civil Union Party's committee, virulently opposed to the "Situacionists" (the defenders of the government's situation), hence opposed to President Juárez, whose surname just happened to coincide with that of my grandfather's town.

The crisis developed beginning in 1889, and Pepe's group of partisans mobilized to join the ranks of students, clerks and young professionals who eventually marched into open battle with the army

in a Buenos Aires park.

Such outbursts develop slowly, especially in a small town. The first incident of which there is a trace today, reported by the local paper in neighboring Tandil Jan. 6, 1890, tells of a certain Sergeant Castro who, gun in hand, went up to my grandfather at a local saloon, intent on nipping local rebellion in the bud. The ensuing shot, which might have prevented my telling the story, missed, thanks to the quick action of one of Pepe's friends, who lunged at the policeman's arm.

Once the crisis was in full swing, it became the Revolution of the Park. Untrained, undisciplined, with little more than hunting guns to back up overheated indignation at the "betrayal" of the nation to a colonialist power such as Britain, there were many who, like José, later told endless war stories of what was really a comedy of errors.

In one tale, Pepe felt something hit his boot. "They've killed me, my captain," he cried out. It turned out to be a pebble that had been struck by a bullet and propelled into his foot.

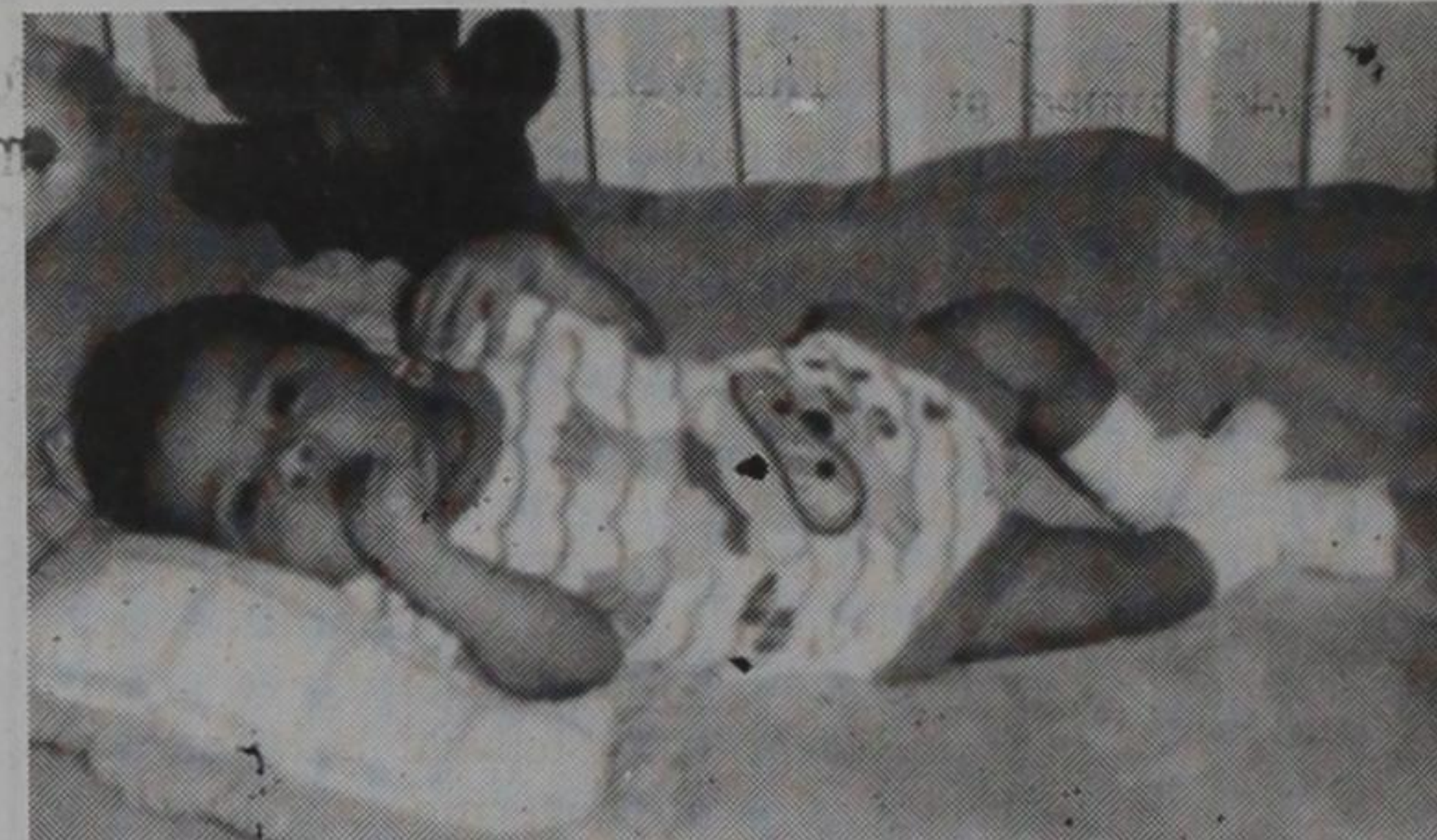
Months later, once the government regained control, repression broke out. It was

fierce for the times. As one faded clipping of Nov. 29, 1890, tells it, Pepe was arrested upon the police's discovery that he housed "a regular number of instruments of death that the Civics were storing with the full intention of convincing the Situations that they should become believers in the Civic creed, or die."

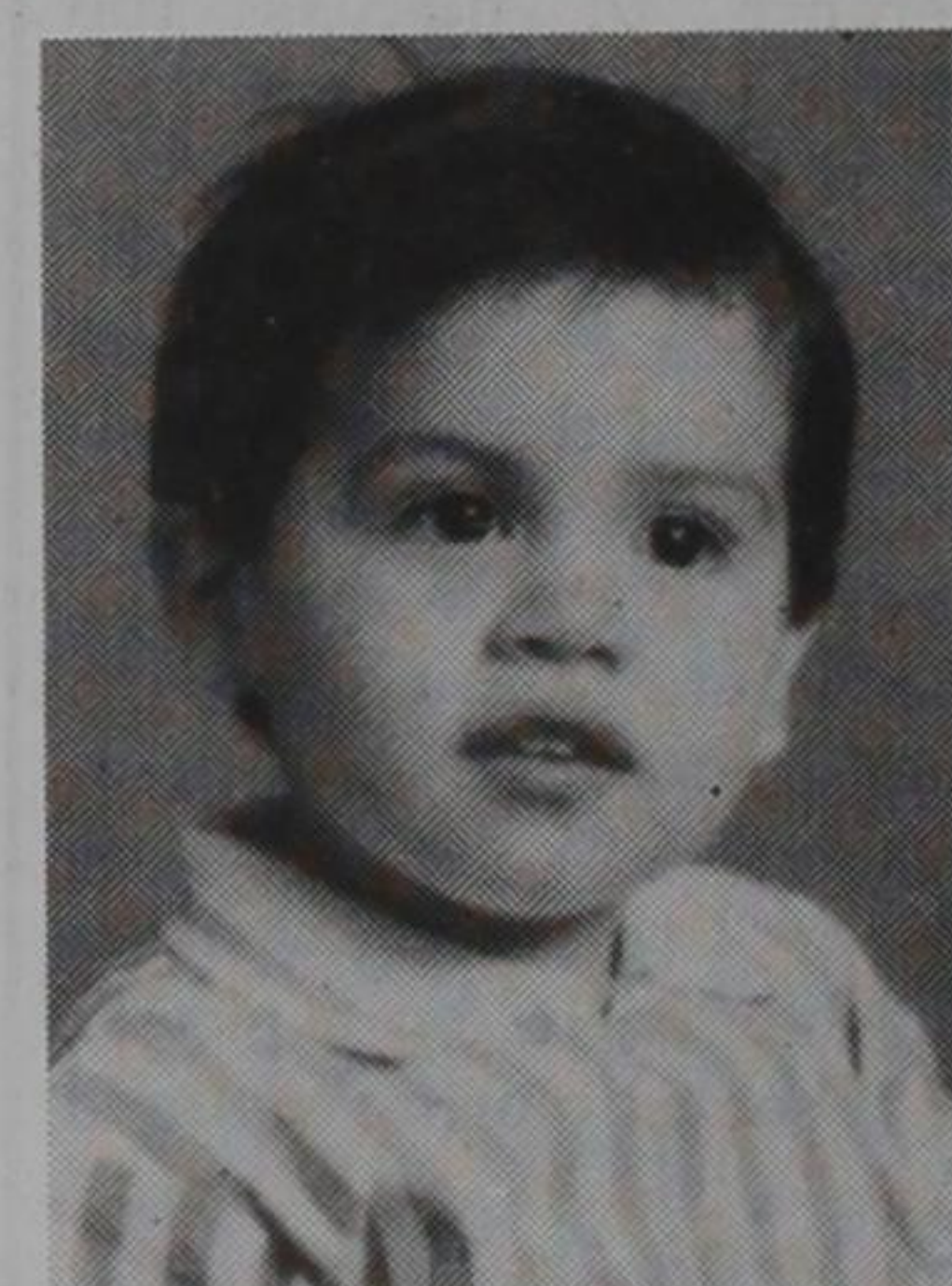
Jail lasted little more than a few weeks, after newspapers more favorable to my grandfather's cause protested, as one did, "the barbarous force imposed upon such brave citizens."

In London, the Bank of England called a meeting of directors and allied bank heads; with dour mien they accepted that Barings collapse due to its financial misadventures simply would not do. A rescue package reorganized the bank in 1892. Barings continued to be Argentina's main lender until, in a burst of nationalism, President Juan Perón put an end to the relationship in 1946.

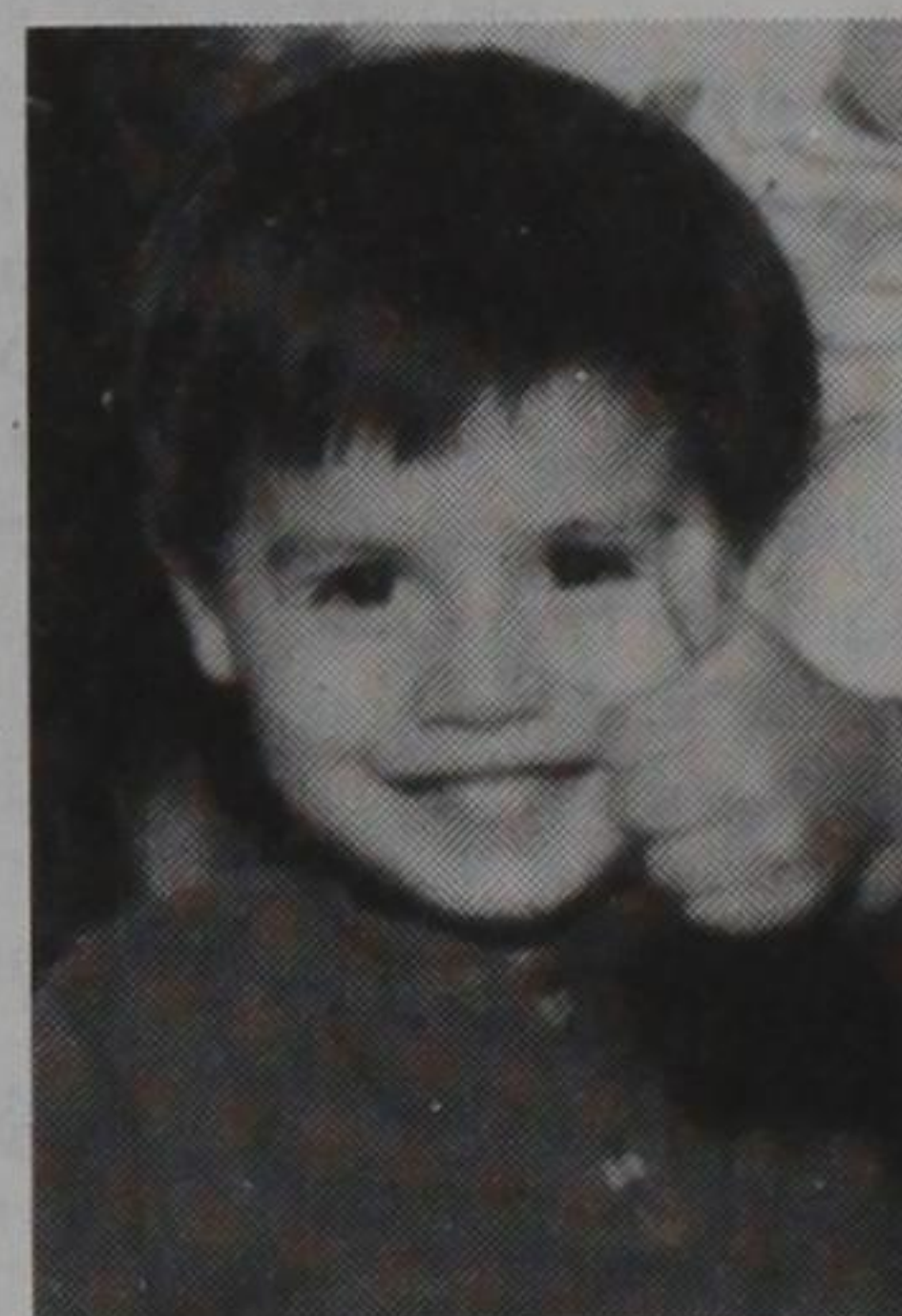
By then, my grandfather Pepe had been dead for six years. I imagine, however, that wherever he is, Pepe must be smiling at the demise of Barings bank at the hand of another young turk. If Pepe knows the saying, he is surely thinking that what goes around, comes around.



2 weeks old, 1989



1 year old, 1991



2 years old, 1992

Stevie Ace Flores.

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A Ritualist National Sport

By Deborah Charles

BANGKOK, - Two men separately perform a ritual dance on centre stage to the music of a four-piece band as the audience makes frantic gestures in the stands.

It is not a ballet or a theatrical performance -- it's the beginning of a Thai kick-boxing match and the stage is a ring at the centre of one of Bangkok's two main boxing stadiums.

Once the ritualistic opening ceremonies are over, the surroundings look like any other sports arena and become a busy and cacophonous venue for Thailand's national sport.

Thai boxing, known as Muay Thai, is a no-holds-barred sport that combines martial arts, gymnastics and traditional boxing techniques and requires the boxer to be in excellent physical condition.

Originating hundreds or perhaps even thousands of years ago on the battlefield as a form of self defence, Muay Thai is Thailand's most popular spectator sport.

"Muay Thai is the national sport of Thailand," said Patrick Cusick, editor of Thailand's only English-language magazine on Muay Thai. "It's as much a part of Thai society as baseball is in America or rugby in Australia."

Muay Thai bouts take place every day in Bangkok, and matches are on TV four times a week. There are 16 publications in Thai plus a daily newspaper dedicated to the sport which boasts about 60,000 professional boxers.

Often called eight-arm pugilism, Muay Thai allows the glove-clad but barefoot fighters to use their feet, elbows, knees and shoulders as the weapons with which they attack their opponent.

Fast high kicks aimed at the head are seen as the most spectacular and effective attacks, along with flying knees and elbow strikes. Traditional boxing-style punches are used to weaken the opponent, but do not score high points from judges.

Wrestling, butting with the head, biting, spitting or intentionally kicking your oppo-

nent in the groin are forbidden by the rules, but everything else is fair game.

The musical accompaniment provided by the four-piece ringside band gets louder as the fight heats up, and when the crowd chimes in the noise in the stadium builds to a deafening crescendo.

"DTEEEE," yells the crowd, marking every jab or kick by yelling the Thai word that means "hit him!"

Most of the spectators are involved in an elaborate form of betting that uses hand signals and wild gestures to show odds and place bets. Ringing mobile phones can be heard in the gaps between cheers as the bet-makers confer on the phone throughout the matches. Some diehard fans see the

betting as a sad sideshow to their national sport, and mobile phones are supposed to be banned from at least one stadium in Bangkok. But others say the betting is just a part of Thai life.

"Sure betting on Muay Thai is big, but Thais bet on everything from beetle racing to political events," said Cusick.

Muay Thai is also replete with tradition.

Before the fight begins, both boxers perform Buddhist rituals that include a pre-fight dance called the Ram Muay, the traditional method of focusing on the spirit.

The fighters, wearing a garland of flowers and stiff headband that has been blessed by seven Buddhist monasteries, enter the ring

and perform the traditional "Wai kru" to pay homage to their trainer and the guardian spirit of Muay Thai.

They then perform a slow, graceful Ram Muay which has religious significance and acts as a warm-up and stretch before the fight.

Muay Thai, considered to be the fastest growing martial art, is attracting foreign interest with some international fighters coming to Thailand to fight.

The World Muay Thai Council, governed by the Thais, has recently been formed and is aimed at coordinating Muay Thai around the world. Most international interest is focused in Europe, with several Dutch fighters winning key bouts recently in Thailand.



NUEVO CAMPEON...Alberto "Ratón" Jiménez en el momento de ser declarado vencedor de Jacob Matlala, con lo cual conquistó la corona de peso mosca que reconoce la Organización Mundial de Boxeo. Como se esperaba, el poder de puños del púgil mexicano, fue factor determinante para su victoria, que lo coloca como el noveno monarca en este peso en la historia del boxeo mexicano.

Primer campeón mosca nacido en el Distrito Federal

Esta era la segunda ocasión que Alberto Jiménez disputaba una corona, antes lo hizo por el cetro de la CMB, y perdió en dudosa decisión frente al tailandés Kittikaseam.

El nuevo monarca es el primero, en esta división, en haber nacido en el Distrito Federal.

Los anteriores fueron de: Efrén Torres, Michoacán (avecindado en Jalisco); Antonio Avelar, Jalisco; Miguel Canto, Freddy Castillo, Guty Espadas y Juan Herrera, de Yucatán; Gabriel Bernal e Isidro Pérez, Guerrero.

twice, defeating Mike Evgen with a third-round knockout and stopping England's Billy Schwer in eight.

Three other title fights are scheduled at Caesars Palace.

Gabriel Ruelas (40-2, 22 KOs) defends his WBC super featherweight crown against No. 8-ranked Jimmy Garcia

(35-4, 17 KOs). WBO junior bantamweight champion Johnny Tapia (29-0-1, 18 KOs) defends his title against Armando Salazar (34-7-4, 25 KOs) and Chad Parker (31-0-1, 25 KOs) challenges WBC Continental America's middleweight champion Dana Rosenblatt (23-0, 18 KOs).

WBA Strips Foreman Of Heavyweight Title

By John Phillips

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, March 4 (Reuter) - The World Boxing Association on Saturday stripped George Foreman of its version of the world heavyweight title for refusing to fight the organization's top-ranked contender.

Foreman's promoter, Bob Arum, said in a statement read at the WBA meeting here that he would go to court to prevent the WBA from taking away Foreman's title.

Foreman is scheduled to fight little-known German Alex Schulz April 22 in Las Vegas, and the WBA decision is not expected to affect that fight, which is sanctioned by the International Boxing Federation.

Oliver McCall is the heavyweight champion of the World Boxing Council, boxing's other main sanctioning group.

The WBA had insisted that Foreman, who at the age of 45 won the IBF and WBA titles by knocking out Michael Moorer last November, fight its number-one contender, Tony Tucker.

It is likely that Tucker now will fight the WBA's number-two contender, Bruce Seldon for its vacant crown.

The WBA had refused to

sanction the Foreman-Moorer fight before Arum won a court decision forcing the WBA to approve that bout.

The various sanctioning bodies often allow champions to fight unranked opponents before forcing mandatory bouts.

The WBA announced its decision after hearing appeals from promoter Butch Lewis, representing Foreman, and from Tucker, Seldon and Don King, who promotes both Tucker and Seldon.

"Mr Foreman has become one of the most important American heroes of this century," said Lewis, adding that he hoped the WBA would sanction the Foreman-Schulz fight "on legal grounds and on the grounds it will benefit the entire sport of boxing."

Rocco De Persia, speaking for Seldon, referred to Foreman's many product endorsements, saying Seldon deserved to fight for the title because he too "has mufflers and poultry parts he would like to sell."

He said the argument that Foreman should not be stripped because of his fame was beside the point.

"Popularity is not the test," he said. "This is not professional wrestling."

DelaHoya to Fight Ruelas

MIAMI - Olympic champion Oscar De La Hoya and Rafael Ruelas will meet May 6 in Las Vegas, each putting his piece of the lightweight title on the line while heading a card in which four championships will be decided.

"This is the match that everyone in boxing, Hispanic or non-Hispanic, has been waiting for," promoter Bob Arum said Wednesday. "The two best lightweights in the world, both from Southern California, finally get it on to determine who the supreme champion is."

WBO champion De La Hoya (17-0 with 15 knockouts) is coming off a victory Feb. 18 win against three-time world champion John John Molina. De La Hoya, 22, sent Molina to the canvas in the first round and went to an unanimous decision.

De La Hoya won the lightweight title for the United States at the Barcelona Olympics.

IBF champion Ruelas (43-1 with 34 knockouts) won his crown in February, recovering from two first-round knockdowns to defeat Freddie Pendleton by unanimous decision. Since then the 23-year-old has defended his title

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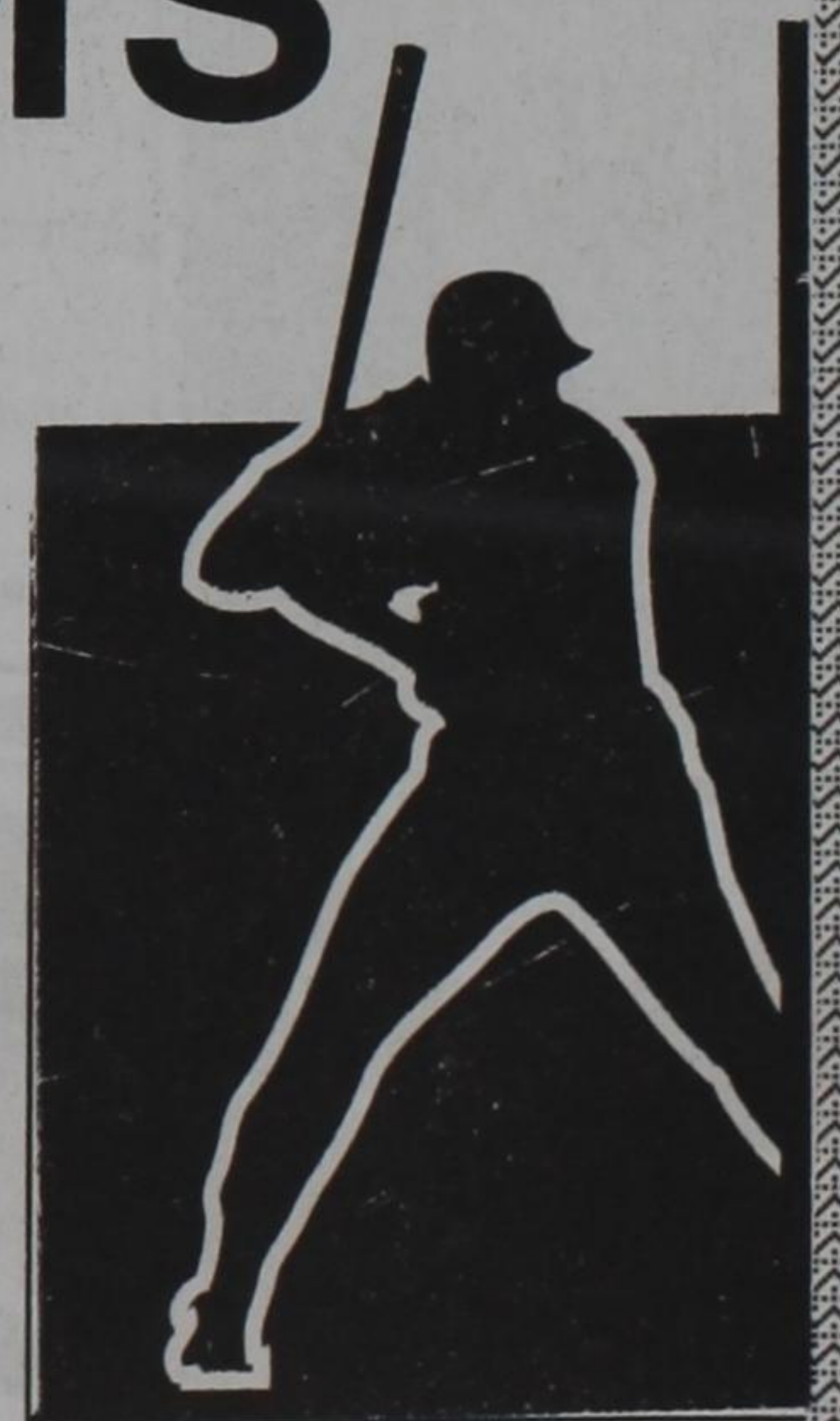
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Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

Se acercaron a Jesus unos Saduceos. Como los Saduceos no creen que vamos a resucitar al "fin del mundo", le preguntaron a Jesucristo: "Maestro, Moises nos dijo escrito que si alguno tiene un hermano casado que muere sin haber tenido hijos, se case con la viuda para darle descendencia a su hermano. Hubo una vez siete hermanos, el mayor de ellos se casó y murió sin dejar hijos. el segundo, el tercero y los demas, tomaron por esposa a la viuda y todos murieron sin dejar hijos. Por fin murió la viuda. Ahora bien, cuando llegue el momento de la Resurrección, ¿de cual de ellos va a ser esposa aquella mujer? Pues los siete estuvieron casados con ella? Jersus les dijo: "En esta vida, hombres y mujeres se casan, pero en la vida futura, los que sean juzgados dignos de ella? y de la resurrección de los muertos, no se casaran ni podran ya morir, porque seran como angeles e hijos de Dios, pues El los habra resucitado. Y que los muertos resucitan, el mismo Moises lo indica en el episodio de la zarza, cuando llamo al Señor, Dios de Abraham, Dios de Isaac, Dios de Jacob. Porque Dios no es Dios de muertos, sino de vivos, pues para El todos viven". (Lucas 20, 27-38).

Cristo afirmo categoricamente, respondiendoles a los saduceos, a "la vida futura" y a "los que sean juzgados" dignos de ella y de la resurrección de los muertos"...Moises le llamo a Dios: Dios de Abraham,

Dios de Isaac, Dios de Jacob", porque Dios no es Dios de muertos, sino Dios de vivos, pues para El todos estan vivos, como explica el mismo Cristo. De modo que los muertos resucitaran. Asi lo dice Jesucristo y asi sera. Y esto es de gran importancia para nosotros, los Saduceos modernos, que parece que no acabamos de creer en la resurrección o al menos vivimos como si esa verdad, y muchas otras, que dijo Jesucristo, nos importaran un comino...vivimos como si lo mas importante fuera esta vida que se nos va a acabar al contrario de la otra que es eterna.

Pasamos por esta vida, como si nunca tuvieramos que presentar cuentas de todos sedientos, y desnudos, y hambrientos, y encarcelados, y enfermos, y forastaros que hicimos como que no los vimos... Y es de la mayor importancia, porque no vaya a ser que el dia de la resurrección, nos vayamos a dar la gran "Quemada". (Mateo 5, 1-12).

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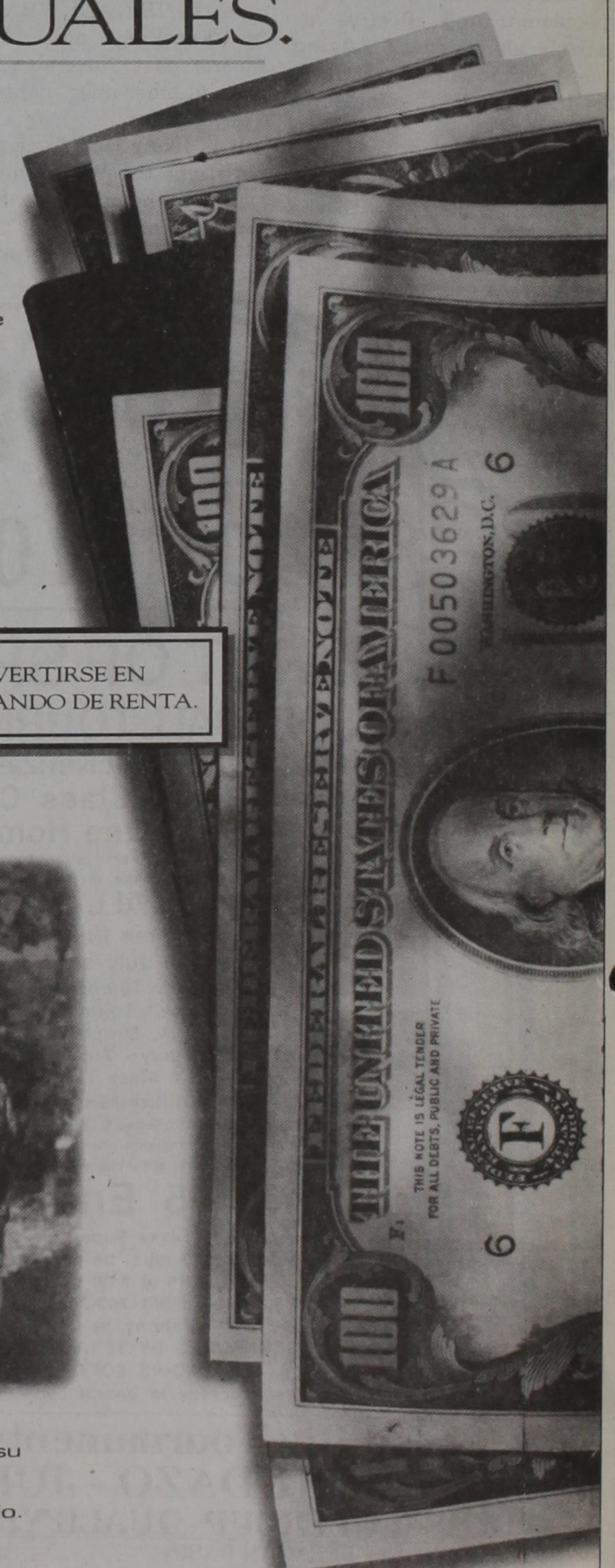
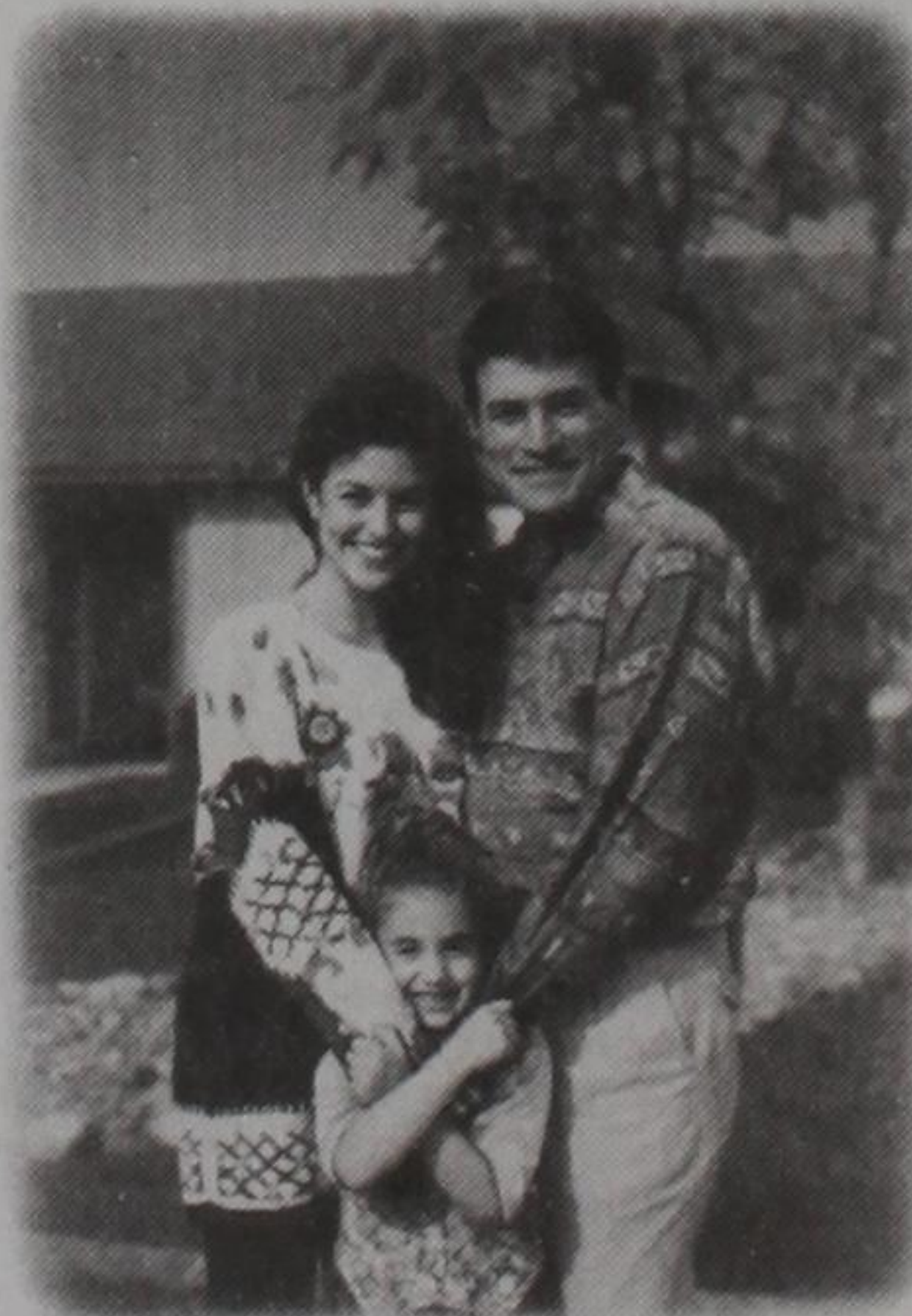
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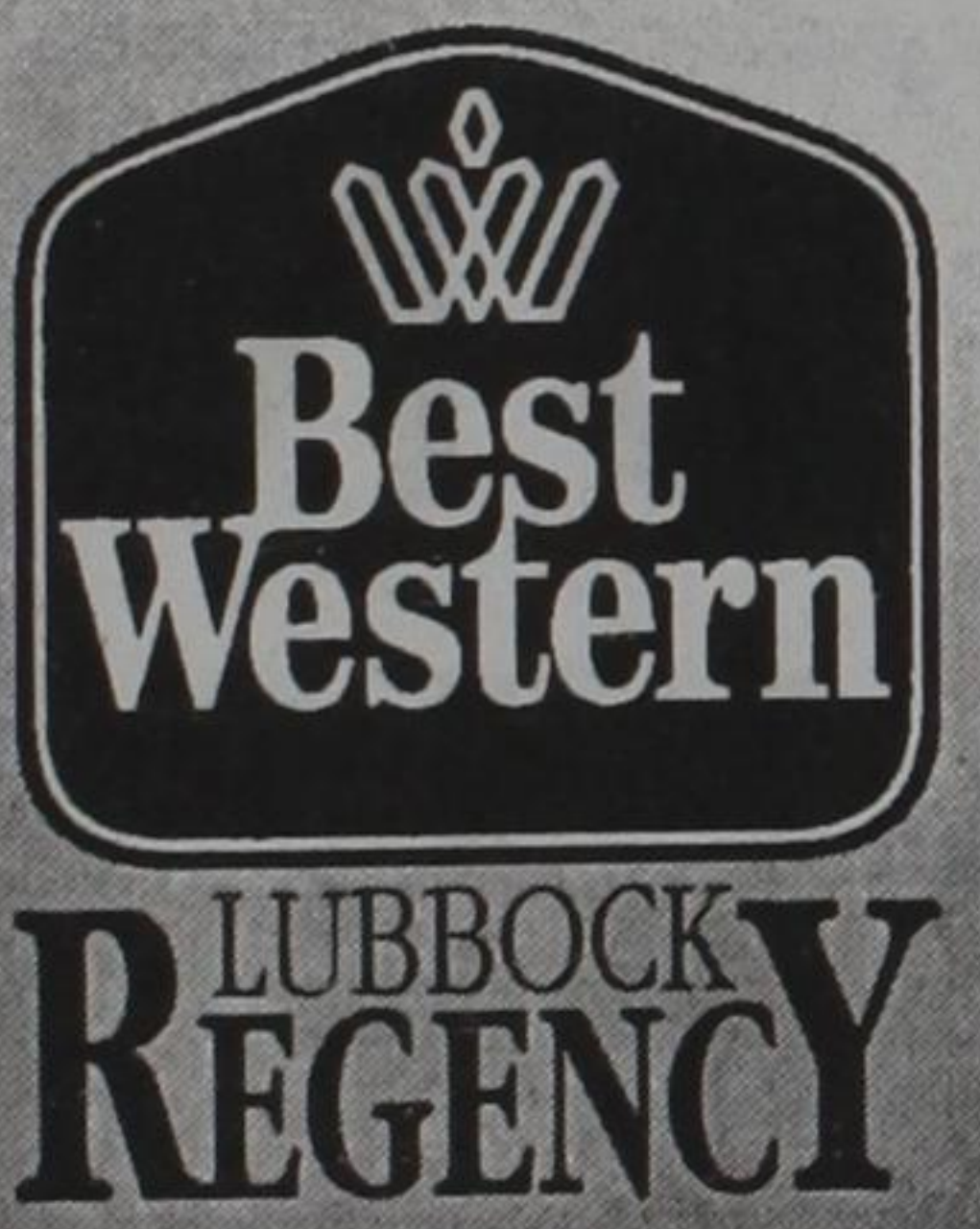


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